

ASTHO (Association of State and Territorial Health Officials) Vision Award for Innovation, Effectiveness and Replicability

The Maryland Health Enterprise Zones (HEZ) Initiative received the 2016 First Place Vision Award for Innovation, Effectiveness and Replicability from ASTHO (Association of State and Territorial Health Officials) for programs with a budget of \$250,000 or more.

The ASTHO Vision Awards recognize outstanding state and territorial health agency programs and initiatives that use a creative approach to address public health needs or problems.

The Health Enterprise Zones Initiative was awarded the ASTHO Vision Award for its innovative design, approach, and timing, and for demonstrating that it is effective in addressing several of Maryland's priority outcomes. The policy framework for the HEZs, designed to bring economic development principles to public health, was enabled by the Maryland Health Improvement and Disparities Reduction Act of 2012. It included a range of incentives to expand access to care, reduce health disparities, and improve health outcomes in underserved areas by attracting primary care, dental and behavioral health clinicians and supporting community-level interventions to broaden the scope of care within a given community to address social determinants of health. Perhaps most notably, and key to their success, the HEZs were timed to leverage new incentives enabled by systems changes at the State and federal levels. The HEZs are well-positioned for replication and are on their way to meeting their legislatively-mandated outcomes.